Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (original):   A method of purchasing value units required for utilizing a paid function

5   of a software program residing on a first computer, the method comprising:

executing the software program on the first computer;

establishing connection between the first computer and a second computer;

the first computer initiating an order with the second computer for a quantity of

value units to be purchased;

10   the software program executed on the first computer receiving a serial number from

the second computer;

the software program storing the received serial number in a first location of a

memory of the first computer;

transmitting a refill file from the second computer to a second location of the

15   memory of the first computer, the refill file indicating the quantity of value

units purchased and a confirmation number corresponding to the serial number;

loading the refill file from the second location of the memory of the first computer

into the software program;

comparing the confirmation number of the refill file with the serial number; and

20   if the confirmation number of the refill file matches the serial number, adding the

quantity of value units purchased to a previous total of value units and

permanently deleting the serial number from the first location of the memory of

the first computer.

25   2 (currently amended):   The method of claim 1, wherein the second computer is a server.

3 (currently amended):   The method of claim 2, wherein the first computer and the

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second computer communicate through a computer network.

4 (currently amended):   The method of claim 2, wherein the first computer and the
    second computer communicate via the Internet.

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5 (currently amended):   The method of claim 1, wherein if the confirmation number of
    the refill file does not match the serial number, the previous total of value units is not
    changed and the serial number is not deleted from the first location of the memory of
    the first computer.

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6 (currently amended):   The method of claim 1, wherein the second computer transmits
    the refill file to the first computer as an attachment in an email message.

7 (currently amended):   The method of claim 1, wherein the serial number is

15   automatically transmitted from the second computer to the first location of the
    memory of the first computer without any action required by a user of the first
    computer.

8 (currently amended):   The method of claim 1, wherein the first location is hidden from

20   a user of the first computer.

9 (currently amended):   The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the refill file from
    the second computer to the second location of the memory of the first computer is
    performed after the order is completed and verified by the second computer.

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10 (currently amended):   The method of claim 1, wherein the memory of the first
    computer is a non-volatile memory.

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